

The infrastructure and operational methods of the three state nurseries continue to be upgraded to take advantage of new technology. New coolers, modern material handling equipment, refrigerated trucks, and a computer based ordering and inventory system are some of the recent innovations that insure high quality seedlings at a reasonable cost. Currently, there are nearly 55 million seedlings in the state nurseries with a future value of over 5 million dollars.

Wisconsin has been considered a leader in the nation for reforestation practices since the CCC era. The state nursery and reforestation programs have been the backbone of Wisconsin's conservation programs by providing a consistent supply of high quality, economically priced seedlings for rebuilding the state's forest resource.

For more information about Wisconsin's Nursery Program or to order tree seedlings see:

www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/land/forestry/nursery

Or contact one of the state nurseries listed:

**Griffith State
Nursery**

473 Griffith Avenue
WI Rapids, WI
54494-7859
(715) 424-3700

**Hayward State
Nursery**

16133 W Nursery Rd
Hayward, WI 54843
(715) 634-2717

**Wilson State
Nursery**

PO Box 305
Boscobel, WI 53805
(608) 375-4123

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Fall at the Wilson Nursery, Boscobel

Wisconsin's State Forest Nurseries

beginning
tomorrow's forests
today

Fall at the Hayward Nursery



The mission of the state nursery program is “to insure a consistent supply of high quality seedlings, of desirable forest species, at an economical price, to encourage reforestation in Wisconsin.”

Wisconsin's forest nursery program has been a leader in the stewardship of natural resources since 1911, producing over 1.5 billion tree and wildlife shrub seedlings. Reforestation efforts utilizing state nursery stock have been instrumental in creating and enhancing the supply of raw material for the forest industry in Wisconsin. In addition, these forests improve wildlife habitat, prevent soil erosion, conserve energy, and provide aesthetic beauty.

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) currently operates three forest tree nurseries: the Wilson State Nursery in Boscobel; the Griffith State Nursery in Wisconsin Rapids; and the Hayward State Nursery in Hayward. Annually, between 18 to 25 million seedlings are produced for reforestation projects on state, county, industrial, and private lands. Each nursery in addition to producing seedlings for its distribution area is responsible for a part of the overall statewide program. Seedlings are ordered through Griffith, planting stock for the parks program and many of the shrubs are grown at Wilson, and Hayward processes and stores most of the seed.

Purchasers of state nursery stock agree to use these trees only for reforestation, wildlife habitat, and erosion control purposes. The state nursery program is financially self-supported from the sale of nursery stock. In addition, a surcharge on all state nursery stock sold contributes over \$400,000 annually for forestry education and public awareness in Wisconsin.



One year old jack pine



Red oak seedlings in the fall



Fall seeding

The Tree Seed Procurement Program is vital in providing the thousands of bushels of seed needed annually for planting at the state nurseries. Since genetically improved orchards do not yet meet all of our seed needs, the hundreds of citizens statewide who collect and sell seed provide a reasonably constant supply of seed from a wide range of genetic sources. Training these collectors on how, when, and where to collect seed is an on-going effort, and provides a perfect opportunity to involve and interest citizens in Wisconsin's forest resource. A seed extractory and storage facility is located at Hayward. It provides the majority of conifer seed sown in the state nurseries. In addition, hardwood and conifer seed for direct seeding regeneration projects is available from the state nurseries to state and county forests and private landowners. The variety of species and the large volume of seed needed for this alternative reforestation technique are made possible by the extensive network of citizen seed collectors.



Seed extraction kiln at Hayward



Cleaned jack pine seed

The Nursery Soils Research Program at the University of Wisconsin has historically been supported financially and "in-kind" by the state nursery program. Research results that have been implemented in our nursery operations include soil fertility and organic matter management, use of slow release fertilizers, species-specific fertilization schedules, and fumigation alternatives. In addition, this research has generated numerous scientific publications that have benefited both public and private nurseries across the nation.

Insect and Disease Research Programs are conducted at, and funded by, the state nurseries. Researchers from the Universities of Wisconsin and Minnesota, and USDA-Forest Service cooperate with the state nurseries to find practical solutions to insect and disease problems that affect nurseries.



Arbor Day is a national environmental education program designed to teach students the importance of trees within our environment. Wisconsin's Arbor Day is celebrated by schools on the last Friday in April and is usually linked with Earth Day. Annually, the state nursery program provides 75,000 free seedlings to fourth grade students for this celebration. In addition, free seedlings are provided to registered school and community forests.

Other nursery related programs that are funded by the sale of nursery stock include:

The Reforestation Program in

Wisconsin is one of the most successful in the nation. This is a direct result of the state nursery program's production of high quality seedlings, the efforts of foresters who write and facilitate planting plans, and our excellent distribution system. This coordinated effort allows a large quantity of seedlings to be planted in Wisconsin during April and early May. Our continuing emphasis on planning, proper seedling handling and planting increases the chances of successful reforestation projects.

The Tree Improvement Program

provides genetically superior seed for the state nursery program by developing and managing seed orchards. The long-term commitment necessary to support a tree improvement program is provided by the existence of the nursery program. Seed orchards have currently been established for red, white and jack pine; white spruce; black walnut; and red oak. Currently, all of the seed needs for white spruce and significant amounts of white pine seed are provided by these orchards. Genetic improvements have been made with white pine blister rust disease resistance, jack pine gall rust disease resistance, increased wood volume production, and improved stem form. In addition, the tree improvement program provides critical information on the proper movement of seed sources within Wisconsin to ensure the best growth and adaptability of reforestation stock.



Fertilization during the growing season



Mature white pine cones in the Sawyer Creek seed orchard



Hand picking white pine cones